

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice announces that a Federal Grand Jury in Detroit today indicted Grace Buchanan Dineen and seven other persons on charges of violating the wartime espionage statute.

Those named in the indictment in addition to Miss Dineen are Mrs. Theresa Behrens and Dr. Frederick William Thomas, who, with Miss Dineen, were arrested by agents of the FBI on August 24 and charged with espionage;

Mrs. Mariana Von Moltke and Mrs. Emma Elise Leonhardt, who were apprehended on Presidential warrants as alien enemies on the same day; Carl John Wilhelm Leonhardt, husband of Mrs. Leonhardt; Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, merchant seaman, and Walter Joseph Abt, defense plant employe.

All of the defendants live in the Detroit area. Miss Dineen and Hoffman are natives of Canada, although Hoffman claims U.S. citizenship.

Dr. Thomas is a native-born American. Mrs. Behrens, Leonhardt and Abt are German-born, naturalized U.S. citizens. Mrs. Leonhardt and Mrs. Von Moltke are German nationals.

The indictment marks the culmination to date of an investigation begun by the FBI in 1939 and continued to the present time. The presentation to the Grand Jury was made by John W. Babcock, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, under the direction of Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division.

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The indictment charges that the defendants conspired and agreed among themselves and certain other persons to obtain and transmit to Germany vital information on the defense of the United States. Among the information to be obtained were data regarding the size, movement and disposition of troops, aircraft and ships, and information on the fortifications and defense of certain places within the United States. This information was to be transmitted by secret writings and otherwise through contacts living in Stockholm, Lisbon, Budapest and Couronnes, Switzerland. It was also a part of the conspiracy, the indictment continues, that certain of the defendants would be "employed in various capacities and activities within the United States for the purpose of being in a position . . ." to secure and transmit the information desired.

Sixteen co-conspirators who assisted in the espionage activity are named but not indicted. Among them are Theodore Donay, of Detroit, now under sentence for misprision of treason in the Max Stephan case. The others are believed to be in Europe.

The indictment charges a conspiracy to violate Section 32, Title 50, U. S. Code which provides a maximum penalty of death or imprisonment for not more than 30 years.

At the time of Miss Dineen's arrest it was pointed out that although she was the center of the alleged spy ring's activities, she has, in fact, acted as a counter-spy under close FBI control and surveillance almost from the time of her arrival in the United States in October, 1941. All information reported to her by her colleagues was first cleared through the FBI and Army and Navy intelligence services before transmission to Germany.

She was recruited for Nazi espionage work by two Hungarian acquaintances in Budapest in the summer of 1941. One of these, Gayula Rozinek, gave her the name of Theresa Behrens, who was serving as an official of the International Center of the Detroit YWCA, and approximately 200 other persons in various parts of the United States. Some of these names, as well as several European

addresses to be used as "letter drops" for the transmission of information to Germany, were recognized by the FBI as having been known to or used by defendants in other espionage cases.

BACKGROUND

GRACE BUCHANAN DIMEEN was born in Toronto, Canada, on May 19, 1909, of wealthy French-Canadian parents. She moved to England with her father in 1929, and in 1938 went to Budapest, Hungary. She returned to Canada briefly in 1939 at the time of her father's death, later resuming her residence in Budapest. She came to New York from Lisbon via Atlantic Clipper in October, 1941, and proceeded almost at once to Detroit. Her address is 7716 East Jefferson Avenue.

THERESA BEHRENS was born Terez Wassertauer September 19, 1898, at Pancebo, Yugoslavia, of German parents. She and her mother entered the United States at New York in August, 1913, settling later in Detroit. She married Fred Behrens, a German, there in 1917 and became a naturalized citizen on June 10, 1929. She is secretary of the International Center of the Detroit YWCA and lives at 5050 Harvard Road.

DR. FREDERICK WILLIAM THOMAS was born at Fresno, Ohio, December 30, 1898. He studied and traveled in Germany and other parts of Europe during 1928 and 1929 and began the practise of medicine in Detroit in 1930. He is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and the University of Michigan. His address is 4631 Audobon Road.

MRS. MARIANA VON MOLTKE was born in Tercento, Italy, November 7, 1897. She married Count Heinrich August Von Moltke in Berlin in November, 1920, and moved with him to the United States in 1926. She lives with her husband at 4553 Seebaldt Street.

CARL JOHN WILHELM LEONHARDT was born in Dusseldorf, Germany, September 13, 1878. He served in the German army from 1899 to 1901 and was recalled to active duty in 1914. He entered the United States in January, 1924, and was naturalized in April, 1936. During 1932 and 1933 he was active in organizing in Detroit a counterpart of the Nazi party and was later identified with other German nationality groups. His name and address were found by the FBI in the possession of John Dasch, one of the convicted German saboteurs who reached this country by submarine in 1942. He is a carpenter by trade. His wife, EMMA ELISE LEONHARDT, was born in Einbeck, Germany, March 18, 1879. She has not been naturalized. The Leonhardts make their home at 3521 Garland Avenue.

BERTRAND STUART HOFFMAN was born at St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, August 23, 1916. His father was a native of the United States and Hoffman claims U. S. citizenship on this account. He entered the United States at Detroit in June, 1936, and worked in various industrial plants there. Hoffman enlisted in the Navy in December, 1940, but was discharged in May, 1942, after confinement in the brig at the Grosse Isle training station. He later joined the merchant marine. His last address in Detroit was 3039 Wabash Street.

WALTER JOSEPH ABT was born at Stuttgart, Germany, January 25, 1907. He entered the United States in July, 1929, at New York, going directly to Detroit where he has lived since. He was naturalized on April 13, 1935. In 1932 he became a member of "Teutonia" the forerunner of the German-American Bund. He has been employed as a research engineer in various defense plants in Detroit and makes his home at 3521 Garland Avenue, the same address given by the Leonhardts.